

THE BEE.



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W. CALVIN CHASE, EDITOR.

The people's journal is the BEE.

Subscribers are requested to pay up.

If you want a live paper read the BEE.

We tender our thanks to Rev. Geo. W. Moore and trustees of the Lincoln Memorial Congregational church for their kindness on the evening of Nov. 10.

The night schools are in operation and the hum of anxious learners makes sweet music and profitable pastime. Let all who can avail themselves of this new opportunity to learn the arts of peace.

We are pleased to see by the Denver, Col. Argus that Mr. George S. Contee, formerly of this city, is becoming to be one of the most influential public men in Denver. Mr. Contee's Odd Fellows sermon, delivered a few days ago, has met with popular favor. We expect to see greater things from this distinguished young man.

The greatest oration of the age was delivered by Col. Geo. W. Williams and the most classic audience ever assembled was at Lincoln Memorial church last Wednesday evening. Col. Williams should feel proud of his oration, which is an evidence of his popularity and his recognized ability as a scholar and a historian.

Prof. W. B. Johnson has been elected editor of the Virginia Baptist Companion. The election of this young divine is a great acquisition to the paper and we wish him success in his new field of labor, as we know of no one more competent than Prof. Johnson to fill the position to which he has been honored.

Master Workman Powderly has not become dismayed by the "scotching" he received at Richmond. He manifests signs of activity which show that he has gained favor at the north and is determined to advance the cause of labor reform until every man, white and black may claim protection and command respect while acting in the capacity of a producer.

CUBAN EMANCIPATION.

The exercises at Lincoln Memorial Congregational church last Wednesday evening under the auspices of the Philomathian Literary Society, were the grandest ever held in this city. Col. Geo. W. Williams' oration was a masterpiece of composition, indeed he excelled himself. The representatives of the Spanish and English legation who were present sat motionless listening to this great Negro historian, scholar and orator. His peroration was eloquent and grand, and the applause at its conclusion lasted fully three minutes.

THE POLICE COURT.

The Police Court is an institution which, though necessary to the preservation of law and order, is by no means savory. It furnishes a rare opportunity for the study of the dark side of human nature. Day after day, for many years, the votaries at the shrine of vice experience the fact that "the way of the transgressor is hard." It is a spectacle of pity mingled with disgust to see the swarm of human vermin that swarm and fester about the precinct stations and in the Police Court. Law breakers of every description, vagrants, drunkards, thieves, peace breakers, the denizens of the sinks of iniquity all are daily driven up to pay the penalty of their misdemeanors and crimes. It is pitiable, indeed to see even women figure in the category of crime. What a picture of human depravity. What is the cause of all this? was asked of an old officer of Judge Snell's court. Is it rum? "No," said the officer, "I believe that the trouble is in the base nature and bad raising of the creatures." The answer was not satisfactory nor compatible with the explanations and apologies of the culprits themselves who pleaded drunkenness in mitigation of a severe sentence. There are many colored people who have business with Judge Snell who risked credit not only on themselves but on the race to a certain extent, for the whole race is charged with the shortcoming of any member of it. For this reason if for no other people should try to live circumspect. Pride of race if nothing else should urge them to make their daily walks above reproach of men. It would be a bright and cheerful commentary if one week even one day were to pass by without a colored person being arraigned before the Police Judge of this city. To bring about such a result every colored man and woman should willingly assist. It requires incessant work in the moral vineyard to counteract the growth of evil and one can best serve his race by assisting in the work of purifying it from taint of wickedness.

OUR DECLARATION.

When in the course of political events it becomes necessary for the colored people to dissolve the political bands, which have kept them in political servitude and to assume among the political influences of the nation, the equal station to which the constitution and laws of the United States entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of our fellow citizens require that they should declare the causes which impel them to such conclusion. "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." That to secure these rights political parties are instituted, deserving their force and effect from issues which are from time to time evolved from legislation or from the necessities of economical constitutional government; that the colored people, being a legitimate factor in the American body-politic, are required and are in duty bound, to take an intelligent part in the discussion of and participation in such questions and legislation; that when any party, whatever may be its name, does not or cannot effect legislation and construct government consistent with the interests of the whole people without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude, it is the right and duty of the colored people to prevent if possible, the ascendancy of such a party. The peculiar attitude which the colored people have sustained toward such existing parties was enforced by necessity and as a consequence were forced to submit to much less than under the law and according to their political power they were entitled to. They have been used to further the ends of certain ambitious and self-seeking politicians and have been ruthlessly ignored when they were most in need of support and sympathy. Prudence dictated that, notwithstanding the abuses to which the colored people were subjected, no opposition should be shown the party to which they had sacrificed all to maintain, believing that it is best to suffer long in the hope of favorable results rather than to create a revolution and reverse of party power without assurances of more certain and speedy relief from oppression. But there is always a time, and we believe that the time has come for colored people to declare these abuses beyond

endurance and to throw off allegiance to all parties and to provide new guards and form new affiliations for their future security. In their present relation to parties the colored people are regarded as an unintelligent, amiable and pre-judiced people adhering to impracticable doctrines and with blind zeal following a dangerous leadership. They are ignored by the party with which they affiliate and despised by the parties they oppose. They oppose their own material interests by failing to participate intelligently in those local contests for local benefits by espousing principles which have no bearing upon the immediate issues and engender local prejudices which might otherwise be avoided. They are led off by the windy platitudes of bad men whose only object is to create antagonism between themselves and the whites, in order that the loaves and fishes may not be shared by the colored people, but that in either case the whites may secure all. This was exemplified in the recent elections. When it was possible for the colored people to be represented by one of their own color, independent colored people were induced by the whites to antagonize the choice of the colored people in order that the colored people might not be properly represented. We have appealed to our old party coadjutors to do justice by us and to assist us in protecting our rights. They have told us on more than one occasion that it was beyond their power to do so. We were told that we must oppose Bourbonism to day and bug it to tomorrow, must become repudiationists to day and honest financiers to tomorrow; that we must be free traders to day and protectionists to tomorrow; in a word be anything and everything just as the interests of a certain class direct, with out any regard whatever either as to our present interests or future prospect. In view of this and believing that the only means of securing recognition among all classes of men and all parties is by exercising a keen and intelligent discrimination between party interests and political issues and believing that it is only by securing good men to represent good principles and to administer to a people, we do not hesitate to declare ourselves in favor of good men of all parties and determined to assist the race by calling to their aid and counsel such men as will do justice to all men without regard to color. In doing this, we will strive to be free from party flunkys and sickly obsequiousness, but acting in the spirit of manly independence and having ever in view the best interests of the race as a whole, we shall do our best to mould a sentiment which will crystallize into an acknowledged government of our social, civil and political rights. We view with hope and interest the despotism of the dominant party to do justice to our people and so long as they continue on that line we shall extend all the assistance in our power and thus help to make friends among all parties and enemies among none.

Read the BEE 20 cts a month.

THE EMANCIPATION OF THE CUBAN SLAVES.

THE PHILOMATHIAN LITERARY SOCIETY HOLDS A LARGE MEETING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPANISH & ENGLISH LEGATION PRESENT. COL. GEO. W. WILLIAMS' GREAT ORATION RESOLUTIONS, SINGING, &c.

The Philomathian Literary Society of the 2nd Baptist church held a special meeting last Wednesday evening in the Lincoln Memorial Congregational church cor. 11th and R sts., n. w. The occasion was a celebration of the Emancipation of the Cuban Slaves. The audience consisted of some of the most distinguished colored and white citizens. Representatives of the Spanish and English Legation including Dr. Harvey, Mr. Presbury, Dr. L. W. Livingston and many other distinguished citizens were present. At 8 o'clock Rev. Geo. W. Moore offered a very impressive and eloquent prayer, followed with a solo on the mandolin by Mr. E. J. Butler, and a vocal solo by Mr. James L. Johnson, with Miss Mary Nalle as accompanist. Mr. Butler is an artist in every particular and the solo by Mr. Johnson was beyond doubt artistically rendered. Both gentlemen were recalled amidst storms of applause. Prof. A. S. Richardson from the committee on resolutions read the following

LEGACION DE ESPANA EN WASHINGTON.

ROYAL DECREE.

WHEREAS, under the proposition of the minister of the colonies, and by common consent of the council of ministers; I, Maria Christina, Queen Regent of Spain, in the name of my August son the King Don Alfonso XIII, do hereby resolve:

The patronage established by the law of February 13th 1880 shall cease immediately after the publication of this Decree in the Island of Cuba.

The authorities shall cause the provisions of the 4th Section of the regulation of the 8th of May 1880, to be scrupulously observed, and the emancipated slaves to be at once furnished with the schedule which the article 83rd of the said regulation refers to.

The provincial and local Boards, instituted by the 15th article of the law of February 13th 1880, are abolished, and all the provisions contrary to the present Decree are null and void.

Issued at the Royal Palace of Madrid this 7th day of October, in the year 1886.

(Signed) Maria Christina—By the minister of the Colonies German Garmazo.

RESOLUTIONS:

WHEREAS Maria Christina, Queen Regent of Spain, in the name of her August son the King Don Alfonso XIII, did on the 7th day of October, 1886, at the Royal Palace of Madrid, sign and promulgate a Decree Emancipating the slaves of Cuba, and,

WHEREAS, the said Decree has gone into effect, and is consonant with the enlightened spirit of the Nineteenth Century;

THEREFORE, Be it resolved That, we the citizens of the Capitol City of the United States, convened for the purpose of celebrating the extinction of Slavery in North America, extend our cordial thanks to Senor German Garmazo, late minister of the Spanish Colonies, who framed and presented the law of February 13th 1880, upon which the Decree was based; to the Council of ministers, and to her majesty, the Queen, for this distinguished service to freedom and civilization.

RESOLVED, That we extend our congratulations to the people of Cuba in general and to the ex-slaves in particular upon their deliverance from the blighting curse of slavery; and wish for the Island tranquility and prosperity.

RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions and the oration of the historian, Col. Geo. W. Williams, be sent to his Excellency the Spanish minister at Washington, to be forwarded to her majesty the Queen of Spain.

After which the president, Mr. W. Calvin Chase, delivered the following address. He said: "Ladies and gentlemen, it has been but a few years since the republic of America deemed it wise to liberate over four millions of slaves. The party to which we have paid our debt of gratitude for the aid rendered in the emancipation and enfranchisement of our people was the party of '61. But the party as then existed is not the party of today. The old advocates of universal freedom have passed away, and now we live under a new dispensation. Following the example of America, the queen regent of Spain, Maria Christina, issued an edict which liberated over 200,000 Negro slaves on the Island of Cuba, which wipes out the last vestige of slavery on the Spanish domain."

Believing that an expression of gratitude should emanate from the Capitol of the nation, the Philomathian Literary Society, by a resolution, decided to hold a public meeting and have an oration pronounced by one whose ability and experience befitted him for the task. Those of us who have heard our fathers say what slavery was can but join in thanksgiving to God and appreciate the Spanish government for blotting out from its statute, a folly which caused the United States the loss of many thousands of souls and made many widows and orphans. The Spanish representatives in this city cannot help but appreciate the action of their government. The freedom they enjoy in this land of the free and the home of the brave must have caused them to rejoice at the issuing of an edict by the queen regent of Spain, which liberated over 200,000 Negro slaves. The Spanish and English ministers in the city have sent representatives to this meeting so that they can convey to their respective governments the thanks of a once enslaved race of people in America. A country whose constitution has failed to protect its citizens; a government whose south has written in blood, oppression to the Negro; a north whose political strategy is unequalled; a statute book which virtually says Negroes can be shot down

in a court of justice and a Congress which ordered by a resolution an investigation has had no more effect than the sound of a locomotive at a distance. This is the freedom the Negroes have enjoyed, to an extent, in America, since their Emancipation. I hope this will not be so in Cuba with the recent 200,000 Negro slaves Emancipated. I therefore introduce the orator, Col. Geo. W. Williams.

Col. Williams delivered the oration of the evening, which was a most able and eloquent discourse. He devoted considerable time to a review of the history of Spain upon the subject of slavery. Concluding this review, he said: "This hurried glance at Spanish history may aid in a study of the lessons of the occasion. Mexico and the South American republics, the offspring of the Spanish crown, have succeeded under the greatest difficulties in ridding themselves of slavery. The statesman in three youthful nations have long ago realized that slavery in a republic is a constant menace to free institutions, and have noted that their growth and progress have kept pace with the laws seeking extinction of human slavery. All history, ancient and modern, pagan and Christian, furnishes uniform testimony against slavery. The sum of all villainies, always a curse but never a blessing, it has imposed more suffering upon mankind than any other evil since the world began." In concluding, he said: "We have seen the end of human bondage among Christian nations and it will not be long ere the evil will be abandoned by heathen nations. The great problem of to-day is that presented by the breadwinners of the world. Dollars and cents are the facts underlying all effort to civilize and christianize mankind. Man's body must be made comfortable before he can reason about his soul. They must have the material conditions friendly to high culture before they can intelligently deal with questions affecting their spiritual welfare. It is creditable to feed the hungry and clothe the poor, but it is Christianity itself to render unto every man what is justly his due. It is one thing for a great state to expunge slavery from its statute books and to place thereon laws extending to the people thus enfranchised the rights of citizenship, but it is quite another and different thing to protect them in the lawful exercise of these rights. The most radical reconstructionist in America cannot complain of the character of national legislation in favor of the freedmen, but every body knows that in most of the southern states the rights of the Negro race are not only not accorded to them but actually trodden under the remorseless iron heel of bourbon despotism. * * *

"God grant that the Republican party may believe more sincerely in the doctrine of human rights, and when it returns to power again, as it surely will, make life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness a living reality in every state and territory in the Union. The malevolent race feeling still alive at the south was recently made disgustingly conspicuous in the city of Richmond, where a mob of 5,000 white citizens menaced the proceedings of a lawfully assembled convention of American laborers because a Negro delegate occupied a front seat in a public building. But this feeling cannot long defy the enlightened spirit of the nineteenth century, for a few more such violent paroxysms of negro-phobia and race malice will expire."

But whether the enfranchised Negroes of southern U. S. get justice done them or not, the emancipated slaves of Cuba will henceforth find the shield of Spanish justice over them and liberty will ever more have to them significant meaning and glorious reality. Once Cuba sat as a dark spectre in the midst of the deep blue waters of the gulf. But now she shines in the diadem of liberty, and humanity, the world over rejoice in her birth to a new and better life. Once the moon of the Atlantic ocean and the sigh of the gulf of Mexico answered the pining cry of separated children and disconsolate parents, but now they add their voice to the grand diapason "forever free" which turns the lamentation of slaves into the exaltation of freemen Cuba adds new radiance to the crown of human liberty on the brow of civilization, shedding a perilous light upon the pathway of the nations of the earth, and the Imperial Spanish Throne the lullaby of which was the shock of embattled arms, now rests secured in the hearts of greatly, loyal as subjects. No revolution, can ever rock that throne or imperil its crown or sceptre;—except, perhaps, in behalf of still wider liberty of government; for a state without a king or nobles; a church without a bishop. But whatever the future history of Spain shall be the friends of liberty here in this great Republic will ever cherish a sentiment of profound gratitude to the Spanish nation for this noble Decree of Emancipation.

We remember with conscious pride the service which two royal women of Spain have rendered the cause of mankind;—Isabella sent Columbus on a voyage which resulted in the discovery of this Western continent; and Maria Christina blotted out the last vestige of slavery in North America. Bravo! Espana! The applause at the conclusion of this oration was deafening. It lasted three minutes. After which Mr. Butler sang an original solo, entitled, "Pretty Little Lillies." The Literary will meet next Wednesday evening at Galbraith church, 6th St. bet. L and M sts., n. w. Miss Emma F. Merritt will read a paper entitled the "Stones with which we build."

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